

Norway

Economy

The Norwegian economy is an example of a mixed economy, a prosperous capitalist welfare state featuring a combination of free market activity and large state ownership in certain key sectors. The Norwegian welfare state makes public health care free (above a certain level), and parents have 46 weeks paid parental leave. The income that the state receives from natural resources includes a significant contribution from petroleum production and the substantial and carefully managed income related to this sector. Norway has a very low unemployment rate, currently 2.6%.^[74] 30% of the labour force are employed by the government, the highest in the OECD.^[75] The hourly productivity levels, as well as average hourly wages in Norway are among the highest in the world.^[76]^[77] The egalitarian values of the Norwegian society ensure that the wage difference between the lowest paid worker and the CEO of most companies is much smaller than in comparable western economies.^[78] This is also evident in Norway's low Gini coefficient. The state has large ownership positions in key industrial sectors, such as the strategic petroleum sector (Statoil and Aker Solutions), hydroelectric energy production (Statkraft), aluminium production (Norsk Hydro), the largest Norwegian bank (DnB NOR), and telecommunication provider (Telenor). Through these big companies, the government controls approximately 30% of the stock values at the Oslo Stock Exchange. When non-listed companies are included, the state has even higher share in ownership (mainly from direct oil license ownership). Norway is a major shipping nation and has the world's 6th largest merchant fleet, with 1,412 Norwegian-owned merchant vessels.

Economy ::Norway

GDP and GDP growth

Norwegians enjoy the second highest GDP per-capita (after Luxembourg) and fourth highest GDP (PPP) per-capita in the world. Today, Norway ranks as the second wealthiest country in the world in monetary value, with the largest capital reserve per capita of any nation.^[72] According to the CIA World Factbook, Norway is a net external creditor of debt.^[2] Norway maintained first place in the world in the UNDP Human Development Index (HDI) for six consecutive years (2001–2006),^[6] and then reclaimed this position in 2009 and 2010.^[15] The standard of living in Norway is among the highest in the world. Foreign Policy Magazine ranks Norway last in its Failed States Index for 2009, judging Norway to be the world's most well-functioning and stable country. Continued oil and gas exports coupled with a healthy economy and substantial accumulated wealth lead to a conclusion that Norway will remain among the richest countries in the world in the foreseeable future.

Economy - overview:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

The Norwegian economy is a prosperous mixed economy, with a vibrant private sector, a large state sector, and an extensive social safety net. The government controls key areas, such as the vital petroleum sector, through extensive regulation and large-scale state-majority-owned enterprises. The country is richly endowed with natural resources - petroleum, hydropower, fish, forests, and minerals - and is highly dependent on the petroleum sector, which accounts for the largest portion of export revenue and about 20% of government revenue. Norway is the world's third-largest natural gas exporter; and seventh largest oil exporter, making one of its largest offshore oil finds in 2011. Norway opted to stay out of the EU during a referendum in November 1994; nonetheless, as a member of the European Economic Area, it contributes sizably to the EU budget. In anticipation of eventual declines in oil and gas production, Norway saves state revenue from the petroleum sector in the world's second largest sovereign wealth fund, valued at over \$700 billion in January 2013 and uses the fund's return to help finance public expenses. After solid GDP growth in 2004-07, the economy slowed in 2008, and contracted in 2009, before returning to positive growth in 2010-12, however, the government budget is set to remain in surplus.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$278.1 billion (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 47

\$269.9 billion (2011 est.)

\$265.8 billion (2010 est.)

note: data are in 2012 US dollars

GDP (official exchange rate):

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$499.8 billion (2012 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

3.1% (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 105

1.5% (2011 est.)

0.6% (2010 est.)

GDP - per capita (PPP):

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$55,300 (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 10

\$54,300 (2011 est.)

\$54,200 (2010 est.)

note: data are in 2012 US dollars

GDP - composition by sector:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

agriculture: 2.7%

industry: 41.5%

services: 55.7% (2012 est.)

Labor force:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

2.645 million (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 109

Labor force - by occupation:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

agriculture: 2.9%

industry: 21.1%

services: 76% (2008)

Unemployment rate:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

3.1% (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 25
3.3% (2011 est.)

Population below poverty line:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

NA%

Household income or consumption by percentage share:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

lowest 10%: 3.9%

highest 10%: 21% (2008)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

25 (2008)
country comparison to the world: 131
25.8 (1995)

Investment (gross fixed):
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

21.4% of GDP (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 79

Budget:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

revenues: \$282.9 billion

expenditures: \$206.7 billion (2012 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

56.6% of GDP (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 13

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

15.2% of GDP (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 5

Public debt:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

30.3% of GDP (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 112

33.8% of GDP (2011 est.)

note: data cover general government debt, and includes debt instruments issued (or owned) by government entities other than the treasury; the data exclude treasury debt held by foreign entities; the data exclude debt issued by subnational entities, as well as intra-governmental debt; intra-governmental debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for retirement, medical care, and unemployment; debt instruments for the social funds are not sold at public auctions

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

0.6% (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 7

1.3% (2011 est.)

Central bank discount rate:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

6.25% (31 December 2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 125
1.75% (31 December 2009 est.)

Commercial bank prime lending rate:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

3.7% (31 December 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 164
4.4% (31 December 2011 est.)

Stock of narrow money:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$149.4 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 26
\$137.3 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

Stock of broad money:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$309.2 billion (31 December 2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 30
\$280.4 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

Stock of domestic credit:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$694.2 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 22
\$611.6 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

Market value of publicly traded shares:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$219.2 billion (31 December 2011)

country comparison to the world: 30
\$250.9 billion (31 December 2010)

\$227.2 billion (31 December 2009)

Agriculture - products:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

barley, wheat, potatoes; pork, beef, veal, milk; fish

Industries:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

petroleum and gas, food processing, shipbuilding, pulp and paper products, metals,
chemicals, timber, mining, textiles, fishing

Industrial production growth rate:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

-4.3% (2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 161

Current account balance:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$76.1 billion (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 7
\$70.3 billion (2011 est.)

Exports:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$162.7 billion (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 31
\$163.8 billion (2011 est.)

Exports - commodities:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

petroleum and petroleum products, machinery and equipment, metals, chemicals, ships, fish

Exports - partners:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

UK 27.2%, Netherlands 11.5%, Germany 11.1%, France 7.1%, Sweden 6.5%, US 5.6% (2011)

Imports:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$86.78 billion (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 38

\$88.59 billion (2011 est.)

Imports - commodities:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

machinery and equipment, chemicals, metals, foodstuffs

Imports - partners:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

Sweden 13.3%, Germany 12%, China 9%, Denmark 6.3%, UK 5.6%, US 5.4%, Netherlands 4.1% (2011)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$49.4 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 39

\$52.8 billion (2010 est.)

Debt - external:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$NA (30 June 2012)

\$644.5 billion (30 June 2011)

note: Norway is a net external creditor

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$192.5 billion (31 December 2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 25

\$182.5 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

\$197.5 billion (31 December 2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 23

\$182 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

Exchange rates:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

Norwegian kroner (NOK) per US dollar -

5.88 (2012 est.)

5.61 (2011 est.)

6.04 (2010 est.)

6.29 (2009)

Bryggen in Bergen is on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Referendums in 1972 and 1994 indicated that the Norwegian people wished to remain outside the European Union (EU). However, Norway, together with Iceland and Liechtenstein, participates in the European Union's single market via the European Economic Area (EEA) agreement. The EEA Treaty between the European Union countries and the EFTA countries— transposed into Norwegian law via "EØS-loven"[79]— describes the procedures for implementing European Union rules in Norway and the other EFTA countries. This makes Norway a highly integrated member of most sectors of the EU internal market. However, some sectors, such as agriculture, oil and fish, are not wholly covered by the EEA Treaty. Norway has also acceded to the Schengen Agreement and several other intergovernmental agreements between the EU member states.

Agriculture is a significant sector, in spite of the mountainous landscape (Flakstad) The country is richly endowed with natural resources including petroleum, hydropower, fish, forests, and minerals. Large reserves of petroleum and natural gas were discovered in the 1960s, which led to a boom in the economy. Norway has obtained one of the highest standards of living in the world in part by having a large amount of natural resources compared to the size of the population. In 2011, 28% of state revenues were generated from the petroleum industry.[80]

Resources

Export revenues from oil and gas have risen to almost 50% of total exports and constitute more than 20% of the GDP.[81] Norway is the fifth largest oil exporter and third largest gas exporter in the world, but it is not a member of OPEC. To reduce overheating in the economy from oil revenues and minimize uncertainty from volatility in oil price, and to provide a cushion for the effect of aging of the population, the Norwegian government in 1995 established the sovereign wealth fund ("Government Pension Fund — Global"), which would be funded with oil revenues, including taxes, dividends, sales revenues and licensing fees.

Oil production has been central to the Norwegian economy since the 1970s, with a dominating state ownership (Statfjord oil field)

The government controls its petroleum resources through a combination of state ownership in major operators in the oil fields (with approximately 62% ownership in Statoil in 2007) and the fully state-owned Petoro, which has a market value of about twice Statoil, and SDFI. Finally, the government controls licensing of exploration and production of fields. The fund invests in developed financial markets outside Norway. The budgetary rule ("Handlingsregelen") is to spend no more than 4% of the fund each year (assumed to be the normal yield from the fund).

As of March 2011, the Government Pension Fund controlled assets valued at is approximately US\$570 billion (equal to US\$114,000 per capita) which is about 140% of Norway's current GDP. Currently it is the second-largest state-owned sovereign wealth fund, second only to the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority; Conservative estimates tell that the fund may reach US\$800–900 billion by 2017. Projections indicate that the Norwegian pension fund may become the largest capital fund in the world.[citation needed] The fund controls approximately 1.25% of all listed shares in Europe and more than 1% of all the publicly traded shares in the world.[citation needed] The Norwegian Central Bank operates investment offices in London, New York and Shanghai. Guidelines implemented in 2007 allow the fund to invest up to 60% of the capital in shares (maximum of 40% prior), while the rest may be placed in bonds and real-estate. As the stock markets tumbled in September 2008, the fund was able to buy more shares at low prices. In this way, the losses incurred by the market turmoil was recuperated by November 2009.

Stockfish has been exported from Lofoten in Norway for at least 1,000 years
Other natural resource-based economies, such as Russia, are trying to learn from Norway by establishing similar funds. The investment choices of the Norwegian fund are directed by ethical guidelines; for example, the fund is not allowed to invest in companies that produce parts for nuclear weapons. The highly transparent investment scheme is lauded by the international community.

The future size of the fund is of course closely linked to the price of oil and to developments in international financial markets. The Norwegian trade surplus for 2008 reached approximately US\$80 billion. With an enormous amount of cash invested in international financial markets, Norway has financial muscles to avert many of the worst effects of the financial crisis that hit most countries in the fall of 2008. As most western countries struggle with burgeoning foreign debt, Norway remains a nation of stowed-away wealth, financial stability and economic power to meet the challenges of the worldwide economic crisis. In spite of the crisis, Norway still runs a 9% state budget surplus, being the only western country to run a surplus as of July 2009.

In 2000, the government sold one-third of the state-owned oil company Statoil in an IPO. The next year, the main telecom supplier, Telenor, was listed on Oslo Stock Exchange.

The state also owns significant shares of Norway's largest bank, DnB NOR and the airline SAS. Since 2000, economic growth has been rapid, pushing unemployment down to levels not seen since the early 1980s (unemployment in 2007: 1.3%). The international financial crisis has primarily affected the industrial sector, but unemployment has remained low and is at 3.3% (86 000 people) in August 2011. Norway is among the least affected countries of the international economic downturn. Neighbouring Sweden is experiencing substantially higher actual and projected unemployment numbers as a result of the ongoing recession, and in the 1st quarter of 2009 the GNP of Norway surpassed Sweden's for the first time in history, despite a population numbering about half of Sweden's.

Norway is also the world's second largest exporter of fish (in value, after China)[82] and the 6th largest arms exporter in the world.[83][84] Hydroelectric plants generate roughly 98–99% of Norway's electric power, more than any other country in the world.[85]

Norway (Listeni/'nɔrwei/; Norwegian: About this sound Norge (Bokmål) or About this sound Noreg (Nynorsk)), officially the Kingdom of Norway, is a Scandinavian unitary constitutional monarchy whose territory comprises the western portion of the Scandinavian Peninsula, Jan Mayen, the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard and the subantarctic Bouvet Island.[note 1] Norway has a total area of 385,252 square kilometres (148,747 sq mi) and a population of about 5 million.[9] It is the second least densely populated country in Europe. The country shares a long border with Sweden (1,619 km long) that it is the longest uninterrupted border within both Europe and Schengen Area; it is also bordered by Finland and Russia to the north-east; in its south Norway borders the Skagerrak Strait across from Denmark. It shares maritime borders with Russia by the Barents sea, Greenland, Faroe Islands and Iceland by the Norwegian Sea, Sweden, Denmark and United Kingdom by the North Sea. The capital city of Norway is Oslo. Norway's extensive coastline, facing the North Atlantic Ocean and the Barents Sea, is home to its famous fjords.

Two centuries of Viking raids tapered off following the adoption of Christianity by King Olav Trygvason in 994. A period of civil war ended in the 13th century when Norway expanded its control overseas to parts of Britain, Ireland, Iceland, and Greenland. Norwegian territorial power peaked in 1265, but competition from the Hanseatic League and the spread of the Black Death weakened the country. In 1380, Norway was absorbed into a union with Denmark that lasted more than four centuries. In 1814, Norwegians resisted the cession of their country to Sweden and adopted a new constitution. Sweden went to war with Norway but agreed to let Norway keep its constitution in return for accepting the union under a Swedish king. Rising nationalism throughout the 19th century led to a 1905 referendum granting Norway independence. Although Norway remained neutral in World War I, it suffered heavy losses to its shipping. Norway proclaimed its neutrality at the outset of World War II, but was nonetheless occupied for five years by the Third Reich. In 1949, neutrality was abandoned and Norway became a founding member of NATO. Discovery of oil and gas in adjacent waters in the late 1960s boosted Norway's economic fortunes. In referenda held in 1972 and 1994, Norway

rejected joining the European Union. Key domestic issues include immigration and integration of ethnic minorities, maintaining the country's extensive social safety net with an aging population, and preserving economic competitiveness.[2][10]

King Harald V is Norway's head of state and Jens Stoltenberg is its prime minister. It has administrative subdivisions on two levels known as counties (fylke) and municipalities (kommuner). The Sámi people have a certain amount of self-determination and influence over traditional territories through the Sámi Parliament and the Finnmark Act. Although having rejected European Union membership in two referenda, Norway maintains close ties with the union and its member countries, as well as with the United States. Norway participates with United Nations forces in international missions, notably in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Sudan and Libya. Norway is a founding member of the United Nations, NATO, the Council of Europe, and the Nordic Council; a member of the European Economic Area, the WTO, and the OECD; and is also a part of the Schengen Area.

Norway has extensive reserves of petroleum, natural gas, minerals, lumber, seafood, fresh water, and hydropower. The country has the fourth-highest per capita income in the world. On a per-capita basis, it is the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas outside the Middle East,[11][12] and the petroleum industry accounts for around a quarter of the country's gross domestic product.[13] The country maintains a welfare model with universal health care, subsidized higher education, and a comprehensive social security system. From 2001 to 2006,[14] and then again from 2009 through 2011, Norway has had the highest human development index ranking in the world.[15][16] In 2011, Norway also had the highest ranking on the Democracy Index[17] and the Legatum Prosperity Index. According to UNDP, Norway is the world's best country.[18]

Introduction ::Norway

Two centuries of Viking raids into Europe tapered off following the adoption of Christianity by King Olav TRYGGVASON in 994. Conversion of the Norwegian kingdom occurred over the next several decades. In 1397, Norway was absorbed into a union with Denmark that lasted more than four centuries. In 1814, Norwegians resisted the cession of their country to Sweden and adopted a new constitution. Sweden then invaded Norway but agreed to let Norway keep its constitution in return for accepting the union under a Swedish king. Rising nationalism throughout the 19th century led to a 1905 referendum granting Norway independence. Although Norway remained neutral in World War I, it suffered heavy losses to its shipping. Norway proclaimed its neutrality at the outset of World War II, but was nonetheless occupied for five years by Nazi Germany (1940-45). In 1949, neutrality was abandoned and Norway became a member of NATO. Discovery of oil and gas in adjacent waters in the late 1960s boosted Norway's economic fortunes. In referenda held in 1972 and 1994, Norway rejected joining the EU. Key domestic issues include immigration and integration of ethnic minorities, maintaining the country's extensive social safety net with an aging population, and preserving economic competitiveness.

People and Society ::Norway

Nationality:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

noun: Norwegian(s)

adjective: Norwegian

Ethnic groups:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

Norwegian 94.4% (includes Sami, about 60,000), other European 3.6%, other 2% (2007 estimate)

Languages:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

Bokmal Norwegian (official), Nynorsk Norwegian (official), small Sami- and Finnish-speaking minorities

note: Sami is official in six municipalities

Religions:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

Church of Norway (Evangelical Lutheran - official) 85.7%, Pentecostal 1%, Roman Catholic 1%, other Christian 2.4%, Muslim 1.8%, other 8.1% (2004)

Population:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

4,722,701 (July 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 120

Age structure:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

0-14 years: 17.5% (male 421,440/female 404,161)

15-24 years: 13.4% (male 322,413/female 309,906)

25-54 years: 39.8% (male 950,047/female 931,000)

55-64 years: 12.5% (male 296,759/female 292,777)

65 years and over: 16.8% (male 350,812/female 443,386) (2013 est.)

population pyramid:

Median age:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

total: 40.6 years

male: 39.7 years

female: 41.4 years (2013 est.)

Population growth rate:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

0.33% (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 166

Birth rate:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

10.8 births/1,000 population (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 177

Death rate:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

9.21 deaths/1,000 population (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 61

Net migration rate:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

1.68 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 47

Urbanization:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

urban population: 79% of total population (2010)

rate of urbanization: 1.2% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)

Major cities - population:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

OSLO (capital) 875,000 (2009)

Sex ratio:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

at birth: 1.05 male(s)/female

0-14 years: 1.04 male(s)/female

15-24 years: 1.04 male(s)/female

25-54 years: 1.02 male(s)/female

55-64 years: 1.02 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.78 male(s)/female

total population: 0.98 male(s)/female (2013 est.)

Maternal mortality rate:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

7 deaths/100,000 live births (2010)
country comparison to the world: 168

Infant mortality rate:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

total: 3.47 deaths/1,000 live births
country comparison to the world: 211
male: 3.79 deaths/1,000 live births

female: 3.13 deaths/1,000 live births (2013 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

total population: 80.44 years
country comparison to the world: 27
male: 77.76 years

female: 83.27 years (2013 est.)

Total fertility rate:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

1.77 children born/woman (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 159

Health expenditures:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

9.5% of GDP (2010)
country comparison to the world: 36

Physicians density:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

4.08 physicians/1,000 population (2008)

Hospital bed density:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

3.3 beds/1,000 population (2009)

Drinking water source:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

improved:

urban: 100% of population

rural: 100% of population

total: 100% of population (2010 est.)

Sanitation facility access:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

improved:

urban: 100% of population

rural: 100% of population

total: 100% of population (2010 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

0.1% (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 144

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

4,000 (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 121

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

fewer than 100 (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 126

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

21.5% (2008)

country comparison to the world: 84

Education expenditures:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

7.3% of GDP (2009)

country comparison to the world: 21

Literacy:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

definition: age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 100%

male: 100%

female: 100%

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

total: 17 years

male: 17 years

female: 18 years (2008)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

total: 8.6%
country comparison to the world: 116
male: 9.3%

female: 7.9% (2011)

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Government ::Norway

Country name:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

conventional long form: Kingdom of Norway

conventional short form: Norway

local long form: Kongeriket Norge

local short form: Norge

Government type:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

constitutional monarchy

Capital:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

name: Oslo

geographic coordinates: 59 55 N, 10 45 E

time difference: UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

daylight saving time: +1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

Administrative divisions:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

19 counties (fylker, singular - fylke); Akershus, Aust-Agder, Buskerud, Finnmark, Hedmark, Hordaland, More og Romsdal, Nordland, Nord-Trondelag, Oppland, Oslo, Ostfold, Rogaland, Sogn og Fjordane, Sor-Trondelag, Telemark, Troms, Vest-Agder, Vestfold

Dependent areas:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

Bouvet Island, Jan Mayen, Svalbard

Independence:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

7 June 1905 (Norway declared the union with Sweden dissolved); 26 October 1905 (Sweden agreed to the repeal of the union)

National holiday:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

Constitution Day, 17 May (1814)

Constitution:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

17 May 1814; amended many times

Legal system:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

mixed legal system of civil, common, and customary law; Supreme Court can advise on legislative acts

International law organization participation:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

Suffrage:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

chief of state: King HARALD V (since 17 January 1991); Heir Apparent Crown Prince HAAKON MAGNUS, son of the monarch (born 20 July 1973)

head of government: Prime Minister Jens STOLTENBERG (since 17 October 2005)

cabinet: State Council appointed by the monarch with the approval of parliament
(For more information visit the World Leaders website [Opens in New Window](#))

elections: the monarchy is hereditary; following parliamentary elections, the leader of the majority party or the leader of the majority coalition usually appointed prime minister by the monarch with the approval of the parliament

Legislative branch:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

modified unicameral Parliament or Storting (169 seats; members elected by popular vote by proportional representation to serve four-year terms)

elections: last held on 14 September 2009 (next to be held in September 2013)

election results: percent of vote by party - Ap 35.4%, FrP 22.9%, H 17.2%, SV 6.2%, Sp 6.2%, KrF 5.5%, V 3.9%, other 2.7%; seats by party - Ap 64, FrP 41, H 30, SV 11, Sp 11, KrF 10, V 2

Judicial branch:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

Supreme Court or Høyesterett (justices appointed by the monarch)

Political parties and leaders:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

Center Party or Sp [Liv Signe NAVARSETTE]; Christian Democratic Party or KrF [Knut Arild HAREIDE]; Conservative Party or H [Erna SOLBERG]; Labor Party or Ap [Jens STOLTENBERG]; Liberal Party or V [Trine SKEI-GRANDE]; Progress Party or FrP [Siv JENSEN]; Socialist Left Party or SV [Audun LYSBAKKEN]

Political pressure groups and leaders:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (Næringslivets Hovedorganisasjon) or NHO [President Kristin SKOGEN LUND; CEO John Gordon BERNANDER]; Norwegian Association of the Disabled; Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (Landsorganisasjonen i Norge) or LO [Roar FLATHEN]

other: environmental groups; media; digital privacy movements

International organization participation:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

ADB (nonregional member), AfDB (nonregional member), Arctic Council, Australia Group, BIS, CBSS, CD, CE, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, EFTA, EITI (implementing

country), ESA, FAO, FATF, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IGAD (partners), IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MONUSCO, NATO, NC, NEA, NIB, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OPCW, OSCE, Paris Club, PCA, Schengen Convention, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNMISS, UNRWA, UNTSO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

Diplomatic representation in the US:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

chief of mission: Ambassador Wegger C. STROMMEN

chancery: 2720 34th Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone: [1] (202) 333-6000

FAX: [1] (202) 469-3990

consulate(s) general: Houston, New York, San Francisco

Diplomatic representation from the US:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

chief of mission: Ambassador Barry B. WHITE

embassy: Henrik Ibsens gate 48, 0244 Oslo; note - the embassy will move to Huseby in the near future

mailing address: PSC 69, Box 1000, APO AE 09707

telephone: [47] 21-30-85-40

FAX: [47] 22-44-33-63, 22-56-27-51

Flag description:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

red with a blue cross outlined in white that extends to the edges of the flag; the vertical part of the cross is shifted to the hoist side in the style of the Dannebrog (Danish flag);

the colors recall Norway's past political unions with Denmark (red and white) and Sweden (blue)

National symbol(s):

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

lion

National anthem:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

name: "Ja, vi elsker dette landet" (Yes, We Love This Country)

lyrics/music: Bjornstjerne BJORNSEN/Rikard NORDRAAK

note: adopted 1864; in addition to the national anthem, "Kongesangen" (Song of the King), which uses the tune of "God Save the Queen," serves as the royal anthem

Military ::Norway

Military branches:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

Norwegian Army (Haeren), Royal Norwegian Navy (Kongelige Norske Sjøforsvaret, RNoN; includes Coastal Rangers and Coast Guard (Kystvakt)), Royal Norwegian Air Force (Kongelige Norske Luftforsvaret, RNoAF), Home Guard (Heimevernet, HV) (2011)

Military service age and obligation:

Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

19-35 years of age for male compulsory military service; 16 years of age in wartime; 17 years of age for male volunteers; 18 years of age for women; 12-month service obligation followed by 4-5 refresher training periods through ages 35-60, totalling 18 months (2012)

Manpower available for military service:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

males age 16-49: 1,079,043

females age 16-49: 1,051,210 (2010 est.)

Manpower fit for military service:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

males age 16-49: 888,761

females age 16-49: 865,697 (2010 est.)

Manpower reaching militarily significant age annually:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

male: 32,290

female: 30,777 (2010 est.)

Military expenditures:
Field info displayed for all countries in alpha order.

1.9% of GDP (2005 est.)

country comparison to the world: 72

Politics

Main articles: Politics of Norway and Law of Norway

See also: Norwegian parliamentary election, 2009

Harald V, the King of Norway since 1991

According to the Constitution of Norway, which was adopted on 16 May 1814[55] and inspired by the United States Declaration of Independence and French Revolution of 1776 and 1789, respectively, Norway is a unitary constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of government, wherein the King of Norway is the head of state and the Prime Minister is the head of government. Power is separated between the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government, as defined by the Constitution, which serves as the country's supreme legal document.

The Monarch officially retains executive power, however, following the introduction of a parliamentary system of government, the duties of the Monarch have since become strictly representative and ceremonial,[56] such as the formal appointment and dismissal of the Prime Minister and other ministers in the executive government. Accordingly, the Monarch is commander-in-chief of the Norwegian armed forces, and serves as chief diplomatic official abroad and a symbol of unity.

In practice, it is the Prime Minister who is responsible for the exercise of executive powers. Since his accession in 1991, Harald V of the House of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg has been King of Norway, the first since the 14th century who has actually been born in the country.[57] Haakon, Crown Prince of Norway is the legal and rightful heir to the throne and the Kingdom.

The Storting is the Parliament of Norway

Constitutionally, legislative power is vested with both the government and the Parliament of Norway, but the latter is the supreme legislature and a unicameral body.[58] A proposition can become a law or an act by simple majority among the 150 representatives, who are elected on the basis of proportional representation from 19 constituencies for four-year terms. An additional 19 seats ("levelling seats") are allocated on a nationwide basis to make the representation in parliament correspond better with the popular vote.

As a result, there are currently 169 Members of Parliament altogether. There is also a 4% election threshold to gain levelling seats in Parliament.[59] As such, Norway is fundamentally structured as a representative democracy. Effectively called the Stortinget, meaning Grand Assembly, members of Parliament ratify treaties and can impeach members of the government if their acts are declared unconstitutional, and as such have the power to remove them from office in case of an impeachment trial.

Jens Stoltenberg, the Prime Minister of Norway since 2005

The position of Prime Minister, Norway's head of government, is allocated to the Member of Parliament who can obtain the confidence of a majority in Parliament, usually the current leader of the largest political party or more effectively through a coalition of parties, as a single party normally does not have the support to form a government on its own. However, Norway has often been ruled by minority governments.

The Prime Minister nominates the Cabinet, traditionally drawn from members of the same political party in the Storting, to which they are responsible, and as such forms the executive government and exercises power vested to them by the Constitution.[60] In order to form a government, however, more than half the membership of the Cabinet is required to belong to the Church of Norway. Currently, this means at least ten out of the 19 ministries. This has sparked controversy regarding an ongoing debate of separation of church and state in Norway. The current Prime Minister is Jens Stoltenberg, the leader of the Norwegian Labour Party (AP).

Royal Palace of Norway in Oslo

Through the Council of State, a privy council presided over by the Monarch, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet meet at the Royal Palace and formally consult the Monarch. Besides enacting parliamentary bills, all government bills need the formal approval by the Monarch before and after introduction to Parliament. Approval is also given by the Council to all of the Monarch's actions as head of state. Although all government and parliamentary acts are decided beforehand, the privy council is an example of another symbolic gesture the King obtains.[57]

Members of the Storting are directly elected from party-lists proportional representation in nineteen plural-member constituencies in a national multi-party system.[61] Historically, both the Norwegian Labour Party and Conservative Party have played leading political roles, while the former has remained in power since the 2005 election, in a Red-Green Coalition with the Socialist Left Party and the Centre Party.[62]

Since then, both the Conservative Party and the Progress Party have won great amount of seats in the Parliament, however, as of the 2009 general election, not sufficient enough to overthrow the coalition. This has been the result of poor cooperation between the opposition parties, including the Liberal Party and the Christian Democratic Party. As such, Jens Stoltenberg, the leader of the Labour Party, remains Prime Minister of Norway with the necessary majority attributed to the alliance with the Socialist Left and Centre parties.[63]

Administrative divisions

Main articles: Administrative divisions of Norway, Counties of Norway, Municipalities of Norway, List of towns and cities in Norway, and Dependencies of Norway

Norway, a unitary state, is divided into nineteen first-level administrative counties (fylker). The counties are administrated through directly elected county assemblies who elect the County Governor. Additionally, the King and government are represented in every county by a fylkesmann, who effectively acts as a Governor.[64] As such, the Government is directly represented at a local level through the County Governors' offices. The counties are then sub-divided into 430 second-level municipalities (kommuner), which in turn are administrated by directly elected municipal council, headed by a mayor and a small executive cabinet. The capital of Oslo is considered both a county and a municipality. Norway also has two integral overseas territories, Jan Mayen and Svalbard. There are three Antarctic and Subantarctic dependencies: Bouvet Island, Peter I Island and Queen Maud Land.

In addition, there are 96 settlements with city status in Norway. In most cases, the city borders are coterminous with the borders of their respective municipalities. Often, Norwegian city municipalities include large areas that are not built up; for example, Oslo municipality contains large forests, located north and southeast of the city, and over half of Bergen municipality consists of mountainous areas.[citation needed]

Judicial system and law enforcement

Main article: Judiciary of Norway

Norway uses a civil law system where laws are created and amended in Parliament and the system regulated through the Courts of Justice of Norway. It consists of the Supreme Court of 19 permanent judges and a Chief Justice, appellate courts, city and district courts, and conciliation councils.[65] The judiciary is independent of executive and legislative branches. While the Prime Minister nominates Supreme Court Justices for office, their nomination must be approved by Parliament and formally confirmed by the Monarch in the Council of State. Usually, judges attached to regular courts are formally appointed by the Monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The Courts' strict and formal mission is to regulate the Norwegian judicial system, interpret the Constitution, and as such implement the legislation adopted by Parliament and monitor the legislative and executive powers to ensure that they themselves comply with the acts of legislation that have been previously adopted.[65]

Law enforcement in Norway is carried out by the Norwegian Police Service. The Norwegian Police Service is a Unified National Police Service made up of 27 Police Districts and several specialist agencies like Økokrim and the National Criminal Investigation Service, each headed by a chief of police. The Police Service is headed by the National Police Directorate, which in turn is subordinate to the Ministry of Justice and the Police, the Police Directorate is headed by a National Police Commissioner. The

only exception is the Norwegian Police Security Agency who answers directly to the Ministry of Justice and the Police.

In its 2007 Worldwide Press Freedom Index, Reporters Without Borders ranked Norway at a shared 1st place (with Iceland) out of 169 countries.[66] The death penalty was abolished in Norway in 1902. Death penalty for high treason in war and war-crimes was also abolished in 1979.

Foreign relations

Main article: Foreign relations of Norway

See also: Norway and the European Union and Whaling in Norway

Royal Norwegian Navy Fridtjof Nansen class frigate
Norway maintains embassies in 86 countries.[67] 60 countries maintain an embassy in Norway, all of them in the capital, Oslo.

Norway is a founding member of the United Nations (UN), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Council of Europe and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Norway issued applications for accession to the European Union (EU) and its predecessors in 1962, 1967 and 1992, respectively. While Denmark, Sweden and Finland obtained membership, the treaties of accession were rejected by the Norwegian electorate in 1972 and 1994. After the 1994 referendum, Norway maintained its membership in the European Economic Area (EEA), an arrangement granting the country access to the internal market of the Union, on the condition that Norway implements those of the Union's pieces of legislation which are deemed relevant (counting approximately seven thousand as of 2010)[68] Successive Norwegian governments have, since 1994, requested Norway's participation in parts of the EU's cooperation which go beyond the provisions of the EEA agreement. Non-voting participation by Norway has been granted in for instance the Union's Common Security and Defence Policy, the Schengen Agreement, the European Defence Agency as well as 19 separate programmes.[69]

Norway has made a contribution in international development, and was involved in the 1990s brokering which lead to the ill-fated Oslo Accords regarding the Israeli–Palestinian conflict.

Military

Main article: Norwegian Armed Forces

Norwegian Leopard tanks in the snow in Målselv

The Norwegian Armed Forces currently numbers about 23,000 personnel, including civilian employees. According to the current (as of 2009) mobilization plans, the strength during full mobilization is approximately 83,000 combatant personnel. Norway has conscription for males (6–12 months of training) and voluntary service for females.[70] The Armed Forces are subordinate to the Norwegian Ministry of Defence and the Commander-in-Chief is[citation needed] King Harald V. The military of Norway is divided into the following branches: the Army, the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and the Home Guard.

Partly due to Norway's inability to maintain its traditional policy of neutrality in World War II (joining the Allied war effort after being invaded by Nazi Germany in April 1940), the country was one of the founding nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on 4 April 1949. At present, Norway contributes in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.[71] Additionally, Norway has contributed in several missions in contexts of the United Nations, NATO, and the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union.

Transport

Main articles: Transport in Norway, Rail transport in Norway, and List of airports in Norway

Due to the low population density, narrow shape and long coastlines, public transport in Norway is less developed than in many European countries, especially outside the cities. As such, Norway has old water transport traditions, but the Norwegian Ministry of Transport and Communications has in recent years implemented rail, road and air transport through numerous subsidiaries in order to develop the country's infrastructure.[86] Most recently there has been discussion of the possibility of creating a new high-speed rail system between the nation's largest cities.[87][88]

NSB type 73 at Oslo Central Station, the largest railway station in the country
Norway's main railway network consists of 4,114 kilometres (2,556 mi) of standard gauge lines, of which 242 kilometres (150 mi) is double track and 64 kilometres (40 mi) high-speed rail (210 km/h) while 62% is electrified at 15 kV 16⅔ Hz AC. The railways transported 56,827,000 passengers 2,956 million passenger kilometres and 24,783,000 tonnes of cargo 3,414 million tonne kilometres.[89] The entire network is owned by the Norwegian National Rail Administration,[90] while all domestic passenger trains except

the Airport Express Train are operated by Norges Statsbaner (NSB).[91] Several companies operate freight trains.[92]

Investment in new infrastructure and maintenance is financed through the state budget,[90] and subsidies are provided for passenger train operations.[93] NSB operates long-haul trains, including night trains, regional services and four commuter train systems, around Oslo, Trondheim, Bergen and Stavanger.[94]

Norwegian and Scandinavian aircraft at Oslo Airport, Gardermoen

There are approximately 92,946 kilometres (57,754 mi) of road network in Norway, of which 72,033 kilometres (44,759 mi) are paved and 664 kilometres (413 mi) are motorway.[95] There are four tiers of road routes; national, county, municipal and private, with only the national roads numbered en route. The most important national routes are part of the European route scheme, and the two most prominent are the E6 going north-south through the entire country, while E39 follows the West Coast. National and county roads are managed by the Norwegian Public Roads Administration.[96]

Of the 97 airports in Norway,[95] 52 are public,[97] and 46 are operated by the state-owned Avinor.[98] Seven airports have more than one million passengers annually.[97] 41,089,675 passengers passed through Norwegian airports in 2007, of which 13,397,458 were international.[97]

The central gateway by air to Norway is Oslo Airport, Gardermoen,[97] located about 50 kilometres (31 mi) north of Oslo with departures to most European countries and some intercontinental destinations.[99][100] It is hub for the two major Norwegian airlines Scandinavian Airlines System[101] and Norwegian Air Shuttle,[102] and for regional aircraft from Western Norway.[103]

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/no.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norway>